

Updated November 12, 2003

Dear Coroner/County Commissioner:

As you may be aware, counties' costs for child autopsies that are required under K.S.A. 22a-242 are required to be reimbursed by the State. The Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the State Child Death Review Board (SCDRB) are pleased to inform you that the State now has limited resources to meet this requirement. During this legislative session, HB 2666 was passed and signed into law, effective July 1, 2002. HB 2666 authorizes a \$1 increase on the surcharge for death certificates to be deposited in the District Coroners Fund and to be available to reimburse counties for the usual and reasonable fees of child autopsies and travel allowance. It is our intention to establish a guideline to be considered for the usual and reasonable fee for autopsy and travel allowance.

To qualify for reimbursement the following guidelines will be considered:

For each autopsy authorized under K.S.A. 22a-242 on a child, birth through age 17, the pathologist, if also functioning as the coroner on the case or in cooperation with the responsible coroner, shall submit to the SCDRB the coroner report form per K.S.A. 22a-242, the report of death per K.S.A. 22a-235, as filed with the clerk of the district court, copies of all coroner's investigative records relating to the child's death, full autopsy report, and invoice for the autopsy and travel allowance.

It is expected that pathologists will comply with all requirements of state statute, including retention of specimens, and filing of all appropriate paperwork as indicated in K.S.A. 22a-226 et al.

After receipt by the SCDRB of the completed coroner report form, report of death, coroner's investigative records, full autopsy report, and invoice, the claim will be reviewed for consideration of payment by the SCDRB. The SCDRB will forward approved claims to KDHE for payment. The county will be notified if the claim does not appear to be payable due to incomplete filing of necessary reports, and incomplete post mortem examination.

It is expected that payment for a post mortem examination will be for a complete autopsy that includes but is not limited to: examination of all internal organs, including the contents of the cranial vault; limited microscopic exam, where indicated; and toxicology.

All necessary paperwork required for consideration of payment for autopsy and travel allowance should be sent to:

State Child Death Review Board
Office of the Kansas Attorney General
120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7970
Fax: 785-296-6296

Sincerely,

Lorne A. Phillips, Ph.D.
State Registrar and Director
Center for Health and Environmental Statistics

Eric Haar
Executive Director
State Child Death Review Board